

WEC CO-OP CURRENTS

2009 WEC Community Fund Report

A Cause Worth Joining: Doing Good In Our Communities

Washington Electric Cooperative's Community Fund is capitalized by WEC members who voluntarily choose to donate their annual capital credit refunds instead of taking those amounts as deductions on their November electricity bills. The capital credit refund program will be starting again soon. Please consider donating your return to the Community Fund. You can do it just for this year or in perpetuity. It's a way for us all to make small contributions that do so much for our neighbors and ourselves in central Vermont.

In 2009 your electric cooperative supported local food shelves (Hardwick Area Food Pantry and the Stuff-A-Truck food drive), local libraries (the Jacquith Public Library in Marshfield and the Chelsea Public Library, among others), restorative justice (the Washington County Court Diversion & Alcohol Safety programs), health services (the People's Health & Wellness Clinic, Central Vermont Home Health & Hospice), conservation programs (North Branch Nature Center, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, and others), and other important causes. Education, the arts, youth sports, seniors programs... these and more benefited from contributions made to local nonprofit organizations and agencies last year by Washington Electric Cooperative's Community Fund.

The donations, which totaled \$19,689.56, did not come out

of your electric payments, nor affect your rates in any way. The Community Fund is capitalized by Co-op members who voluntarily waive their capital credit refunds, which are assigned to member accounts each year that the Co-op earns margins (meaning, when its revenues exceed its costs). Instead, those members contribute their refunds to the Community Fund.

For the average member, the amount is a fraction of a month's electric bill. Because individual contributions are relatively small and are not taken out of pocket, it's a painless way to contribute to a fund that makes life better for all of us here in central Vermont.

With that in mind, a passage of WEC General Manager Avram Patt's annual report on the fund to the Co-op's Board of Directors

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WEC President Barry Bernstein (center) testifies before the Senate Finance Committee on February 2, explaining WEC's resolution against relicensing the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant. Bernstein was joined by WEC Vice President Roger Fox (dark coat and glasses) and General Manager Avram Patt (lower left).

WEC Board Election: Five Candidates... And Counting?

In an unusual election year, five member/owners of Washington Electric Cooperative have thus far come forward as candidates for four seats on the Co-op's Board of Directors in 2010. Usually, though not always, the elections are for three Board seats – the seats that are expiring in any given year as they reach the end of their three-year terms. (There are nine seats, total, on the WEC Board of Directors.)

This year, however, a fourth seat has become available with the resignation of Director **Andrea Colnes of East Montpelier**. Colnes

was elected in May, 2009, to serve a full term after having been appointed the previous October (2008) to finish out the term of longtime WEC Director Wendell Cilley, who had passed away in September. Colnes has decided that changes in her professional obligations have made continued service on the Board impractical. Therefore, the voters will be electing a fourth director to serve the remaining two years of her term.

The number of candidates could increase before the ballots are mailed to Washington Electric's membership

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Washington Electric Cooperative

East Montpelier, VT 05651

Inside

Willing to serve. Several Co-op members are offering themselves as candidates for WEC's Board of Directors. So far, five announced candidates will be competing for four available seats, though others may join the race. Meet the first five candidates on page 4.

WEC's Vermont Yankee Resolution passed on a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors in January. The Co-op was one of the first voices urging the Legislature to vote against relicensing the nuclear plant in 2012. You can read your Co-op's resolution with the President's Report on page 2.

Taking the heat. WEC member Steve Miller figured out how to capture heat that was practically lying around in front of him, to reduce his hot-water propane bill. Miller tells us how he does it on page 6.



Steve Rinell, general manager of Otsego Electric Cooperative in New York State, digs conservation, efficiency, and technology. New York's interesting and resourceful electric co-ops are featured in our final story on WEC's partners in the NEAEC. Page 3.

President's Report

WEC's Yankee Resolution, And What Comes Next

By Barry Bernstein

On January 27, the WEC Board of Directors passed a resolution calling for the Vermont Legislature to vote No on the 2012 relicensing of Entergy's Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant early in the current legislative session. An early vote this year would enable Vermont utilities and regulators to have ample opportunity to plan for Vermont's energy future.

As the Board's President, I, Vice President Roger Fox, and General Manager Avram Patt, testified before three legislative committees – the House Natural Resources & Energy Committee, chaired by Rep. Tony Klein, a WEC member; the Senate Finance Committee, chaired by State Sen. Ann Cummings; and the Senate Natural Resources & Energy Committee, chaired by State Sen. Ginny Lyons – to explain our Board resolution and why WEC chose to take a public position on the critical issue of relicensing.

As many of our members are aware, our Cooperative has a history of speaking out on energy-related issues that we felt might affect our membership directly, and also other

Vermont ratepayers. The WEC Board spoke in favor of the state purchasing the Connecticut River dams in 2004; against the deregulation and restructuring of Vermont's electric utilities during the 1990s, a plan that proved disastrous for the ratepayers of California and many other states that took the bait. And in the mid-1980s WEC called into question the "black hole" Seabrook contracts that eventually bankrupted or nearly bankrupted several municipal utilities and electric co-ops in Vermont and New England. Those contracts were eventually invalidated by the Vermont Supreme Court after a lawsuit was brought by the state Department of Public Service and the Vermont Attorney General.

WEC, one of almost 1,000 electric co-ops in the United States, was founded in 1939 by central Vermont farmers and their neighbors to bring electricity to their rural farms and homes after years of refusal by the investor-owned utilities to serve them.


As a member-owned electric utility, our Co-op has both a responsibility and an obligation to serve as a "yardstick" for others, showcasing good practices and good leadership, and providing a voice

on behalf of our members and Vermont ratepayers.

On February 25, the Vermont Senate voted 26-4 against the 2012 relicensing of Vermont Yankee. On Town Meeting Day, 16 towns voted No on relicensing, bringing to a total of more than 50 towns that have done so. We hope that the Vermont House will also vote No on this issue during the 2010 session.

It is now the responsibility of CVPS and GMP – the two major Vermont

investor-owned utilities – to move forward to replace their Vermont Yankee power with sources of clean energy. At Washington Electric Co-op, we did that six years ago. GMP's plans to co-develop a wind farm in Lowell with Vermont Electric Co-op is an excellent start, and won overwhelming support (three-to-one in favor of the project) from the community at Lowell's town meeting.

It's a buyer's market for wholesale power these days. That makes it a perfect time for CVPS and GMP to make plans for 2012 and beyond, to provide their customers with clean, affordable power from sources that deserve their trust. 

Resolution on the Proposed Relicensing of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant

Whereas, Washington Electric Cooperative (WEC), a consumer owned and governed utility serving 10,500 member residences and businesses in 41 towns in central Vermont, is a leader in meeting power supply requirements through cost-effective and sustainable energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy resources; and

Whereas, WEC is committed to supporting a reliable, affordable, safe and secure energy supply mix for Vermont that promotes environmental quality and appropriate economic development through local ownership and investment in energy resources used in the state; and

Whereas, WEC has divested its nuclear power and fossil fuel power supply holdings including the Seabrook and Vermont Yankee (VY) plants and replaced them with in-state resources such as its Coventry landfill-gas-to-electricity and Wrightsville Hydro plants as well as Hydro-Quebec, and has invested in First Wind's Sheffield Wind Project; and enjoyed substantial rate stability as a result; and

Whereas, Entergy is seeking approval to generate power at VY for an additional 20 years past its license expiration in 2012 and would continue operating at 120% of original rated capacity; and in contrast to more modern nuclear plants, VY's reactor design and critical safety systems are obsolete; and

Whereas, VY's decommissioning fund is considerably underfunded, based on the actual decommissioning cost experiences of other nuclear plants that have been closed and dismantled; to date and in light of increased decommissioning costs likely to result from the recent leaks of radioactive material; and

Whereas, if adequate funding is not available to support full and timely decommissioning of the VY facility and site, former VY owners and power purchasers such as WEC, and Vermont's taxpayers, may ultimately be forced to pick up a share of the cost; and

Whereas, Entergy's preferred decommissioning scenario for VY is a nearly unprecedented SafStor method that delays dismantlement for 60 years after closure, leaving the site contaminated for generations; and

Whereas, Entergy's poor track record in operating VY and its proposal to spin off ownership of the plant and other aging nuclear units to a debt-laden entity Enexus, suggests an inadequate commitment to safety, reliability and financial responsibility; and

Whereas, the suspension of the National High-Level Waste Repository Project at Yucca Mountain, NV leaves no plan for disposing of commercial spent nuclear fuel, stranding hundreds of tons of deadly wastes at Vermont Yankee, with the prospect of generating many hundred tons of additional waste from continued operations past 2012 with no off-site storage option; and

Whereas, WEC officials from time to time speak out on important public policy issues that affect Vermont's energy future, such as: 1) opposition to proposed utility restructuring and deregulation; 2) support of the purchase of the Connecticut River hydroelectric facilities by the state; and 3) increased funding for Efficiency Vermont to address all fuels; and

Whereas, the WEC Board of Directors has concluded, in light of the above considerations, that closing the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant on schedule is in the best overall interest of the State of Vermont and its residents;

Now be it resolved that the Washington Electric Cooperative Board of Directors calls on the Vermont Legislature to vote to not authorize continued operation of Vermont Yankee after its current operating license expires in 2012. Moreover, the WEC Board encourages such action early in this legislative session, to facilitate the transition from dependence on the facility. The WEC Board also calls on the Administration and Legislature to take all necessary and appropriate action to insure adequate funding and timely execution of the decommissioning process, so as to move forward with near-term, complete dismantlement and removal of all contaminated materials at the site.

Board Approved, January 27
— Marion Milne, Secretary

Co-op Currents

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WEC is part of the alliance working to advance and support the principles of cooperatives in Vermont.

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The Board of Directors' regularly scheduled meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month, in the evening. Members are welcome to attend. Members who wish to discuss a matter with the Board should contact the president through WEC's office. Meeting dates and times are subject to change. For information about times and/or agenda, or to receive a copy of the minutes of past meetings, contact Administrative Assistant Deborah Brown, 802-223-5245.

THE NEAEC CO-OPS

(Final in a series)

'If They Can Make It There...'

Rural Electric Co-ops in the Empire State

New York: "The Empire State"? Perhaps that shoe fits the Big Apple, but upstate, in New Berlin and Cherry Creek, Morrisville and Delhi, it's another story. Such small towns and rural communities are doing their best in an economy not particularly kind to timber and agriculture. Some attract tourists and second-home owners, if they have resources that appeal to urban refugees. Basically, they're similar to places in Vermont where people put a living together by determination, innovation, and sheer habit.

Here's another thing that distinguishes these New York communities from NYC: they are electric co-op towns, served by customer-owned utilities with member-elected boards of directors – just like Washington Electric, except that, "Empire State" or not, all four of New York's rural electric co-ops are considerably smaller than WEC. The largest is Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, out by Lake Erie. Yet Steuben serves just 6,000 homes and businesses, compared to WEC's membership of 10,500. In the middle of the state, Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative – "a tiny little co-op," in the words of its manager, Wayne Sherwood – has only 1,650 members; and Otsego Electric Cooperative serves some 3,800 members, though the summer population swells due to the co-op's proximity to Cooperstown, home of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The fourth New York co-op is Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC), on the far side of the Catskill Mountains, southwest of Albany. Though still well upstate, this co-op of 5,200 members can feel the tug of the Empire.

"In the 1920s, New York City came up here and said, 'This is where our water is going to come from,'" says CEO/General Manager Greg Starheim. "They built reservoirs and flooded towns."

To protect its water source the city has purchased vast amounts of property, and/or easements that prohibit development.

"In one town we serve they own 20 percent of the property, and their percentage of ownership is expected to go up," says Starheim. It's worrisome, because "the city has a long-term record of challenging property taxes. The potential risk is that somehow they could make this property exempt from taxes. There's a long history of upstate-versus-downstate issues."

Of course, the electric co-op doesn't collect property taxes. But its finances have been skewed by the changing cultural dynamics.

"We saw our seasonal membership go up substantially after 9/11," says Starheim. "Historically, we could



Wind farms and methane power plants are cropping up around New York State as electric co-ops and other utilities combat rising power costs with local, renewable energy. Pictured above is the Fenner Wind Farm in Morrisville; unfortunately, the local co-op can't tap into its power, but at least the wind farm is greening up the New York grid.

predict our peak electric-load demand down to the hour: Friday night, 7 p.m., on the opening weekend of deer season. That's changed. Our overall membership is going up, but those members aren't here all the time, so the real metric is how many kilowatt-hours do we sell and realize revenue for. Our kWh sales remain flat to negative, but unfortunately we can't say that about health care costs, power-purchase costs, and labor.

"So," he asks, "how do we isolate our members from the inevitable rate shock?"

In answering, Starheim cites Washington Electric Co-op and its generating station at the Coventry landfill as an inspiration. "I've got so much respect for Barry [Bernstein, WEC's president], Avram [Patt, WEC's general manager] and that whole team. We went up to Coventry a couple of times and kicked the tires on that project. We did a small methane project ourselves – one megawatt. It's operating well."

DCEC has also moved into wind electric generation. "We've developed three sites and sold down the equity in one of them. We cashed out on that project, getting up-front payments which we're using to hold down members' rates."

Co-ops everywhere face unique challenges based on local circumstances. In New York State, all four electric cooperatives qualify for inexpensive public power generated at the Niagara Falls hydro project – but the state's transmission system is slow, congested, and inadequate, and by the time the power reaches the three eastern co-ops it has accumulated surcharges that add about 4 cents/

kWh to the wholesale cost. But co-ops are nothing if not resourceful, and like the other rural electric co-ops in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont that work together through the Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives (NEAEC), these New York co-ops start with the principle that the members' interests come first, since there are no shareholders looking for profits.

In recent months *Co-op Currents* has profiled WEC's sister cooperatives in the NEAEC, first visiting Maine, where two of that state's three co-ops serve coastal islands; then New Hampshire, where, by contrast, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative is the state's second-largest utility; and Vermont, home to WEC and the innovative Vermont Electric Cooperative.

We'll end in New York, where four small member-owned utilities might seem an anomaly in an "Empire State," but where these innovative, hardworking co-ops are holding their own.

'Tiny little co-op'

Wayne Sherwood just had a few minutes to talk.

"A storm is coming through and our three linemen" – THREE linemen! – "are getting ready to go out," said the manager of Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative. It was all hands on deck. "At a co-op this size" he said, "you get to wear an awful lot of hats."

OMEC is based in Bouckville, 30 miles southwest of Utica. Named for the counties it serves, OMEC was created by putting together two co-ops that tried to get off the ground in the 1930s and '40s, when America's rural electric cooperative movement was in its infancy. Labor and materials

were in short supply, and they needed approval from the War Production Board to construct power lines. In 1942 the struggling cooperatives became one. Today it's still a small system, with about 260 miles of line (WEC, for comparison, maintains almost 1,300 miles of line).

"It's kind of hilly around here," said Sherwood, who used to be Oneida-Madison's line foreman. "We serve a few lakes with seasonal residents. We basically have no commercial or industrial accounts. Our largest account is a small woodworking shop, a cabinet maker."

The staff of 10 handles virtually everything. "We do very little contracting out. Those are the benefits and the pitfalls of a small cooperative; the linemen have an awful good idea of what's going on out in the field and know what the needs are; on the other hand, you're maybe not getting that 40 miles of ROW [right-of-way] cut every year like you should; it's a lot of responding to necessity rather than systematically maintaining."

With one eye on keeping the system running, Sherwood's other eye is on power supply, which has been frustrating. "The transmission delivery issues get pretty expensive," he said. "Deregulation didn't do us any favors. That's why we're constantly kicking over stones, looking at opportunities for generation projects."

Incredible as it seems, clean, renewable, low-cost power projects practically surround the co-op – yet they are unavailable.

"We have three wind farms around here," said Sherman. "I can look out my office window and see a turbine." But Oneida-Madison hasn't been able to contract for the power; instead, the developers sell it into the state's power grid.

OMEC also tried to co-develop a methane project at the county landfill, but the county opted to sell the rights at a better price to a national corporation. "We tried to make the point that our members would turn around and spend the money locally," Sherwood said, "but they saw the other offer as a better opportunity."

Yet the manager hasn't given up. He knows that resources for generating affordable, renewable power are there, and hopes to find a way to tap into them.

For the moment, though, there was a storm brewing, and at Oneida-Madison that meant everyone, himself included, had to get busy.

'It all starts at the co-op'

There's more than one way to attack the affordability problem, and just to the

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2010 Annual Meeting Set for May 12 at Montpelier Elks Club

WEC Board Election: Five Candidates... And Counting?

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in early April. In most years, candidates are asked to submit their petitions and accompanying materials for review and confirmation by the Committee on Candidates in time for *Co-op Currents* to introduce them to readers in the March issue (this issue). They are then featured a second time in the Annual Meeting issue, usually published in April, where they answer a series of questions that provide more information about their experiences and their positions on subjects related to the Co-op and energy policy.

This year, however, the schedule covering the publication of this issue and the Annual Meeting – which will be held on Wednesday, May 12 – did not provide the full time allowed in WEC's bylaws for potential candidates to file their election materials. To allow for that time, as we noted in our January issue, candidates have until **Friday, March 12**, to file their petitions (containing the signatures of at least 25 Washington Electric Cooperative members) and other materials.

Five candidates were able to meet our publishing deadline. They are introduced, with photos, below. Yet others have also expressed interest. If additional candidates file petitions and are verified by the Committee on Candidates (a body composed of Co-op members), they will be included in the Annual Meeting issue so that members can become familiar with them. The Annual Meeting issue – the next issue of *Co-op Currents* – doubles as the official notice for the May 12 meeting and contains the officers' annual reports to the membership.

By the time the elections are over there are certain to be at least two new faces on the Board, because one of the three incumbents whose terms are expiring has decided not to run again. WEC Director **Kimberley Cheney**, of **Middlesex**, has served the Co-op for six years and is stepping down.

Two other incumbents – Board President **Barry Bernstein** of **East Calais**, and Director **Roy Folsom** of **Cabot** – are running for re-election. They will be joined on the 2010 ballot by **Steven Clay** of **Middlesex**, **Annie**


Reed of **Marshfield**, and **Scott Skinner** of **Middlesex**. Reed was a candidate in the 2009 Board elections; Clay and Skinner are running for the first time. And as noted, there may be one or more additional candidates by the time we publish the Annual Meeting issue in April.

The election of directors is performed by ballots mailed to each Washington Electric Cooperative member, along with the Annual Meeting issue of *Co-op Currents*, in the weeks prior to the May meeting. **When your ballot arrives, check the accompanying materials to determine when the deadline is for posting your votes by mail.** Members who attend the Annual Meeting can vote there if they wish, rather than by mail.

In 2010 WEC will return to the Montpelier Elks Club for the Annual Membership Meeting, after four years at the Barre Elks Club. As always, the meeting will include dinner for members who fill in and return the coupon that will be included, along with a schedule of events, in our next *Co-op Currents*. Members who do not return a coupon

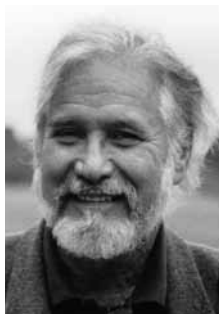
are invited to attend, but cannot join in the dinner.

In this election the three candidates who receive the most votes will fill the three-year board seats. The candidate who receives the fourth-highest total will complete the two years remaining on Andrea Colnes' term. Voters can also write in the names of Co-op members who are not official candidates on their ballot, if they choose. Candidates run at-large because Washington Electric Cooperative is not divided into districts.

Printed below are brief biographical sketches submitted by the five WEC members who have announced their candidacies thus far. The candidates introduce themselves and provide information on their background and involvement with the Cooperative or other avenues of community service. The April "Annual Meeting" issue will feature responses to questions about issues related to Board service, giving readers a better sense of the interests, viewpoints, and experience of all the 2010 candidates. 

Barry Bernstein

Residence: I live on Bliss Road in East Calais, and have owned a home there since 1976. I have been an owner-member of WEC for 39 years, since 1971.



Education/Profession: I graduated from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, with a B.S. in Government and a minor in Business Administration. I attended Northwestern University Graduate School of Business, Chicago, Illinois.

I am a founding partner and president of Better World Energy LLC., the Northeast representative for Messersmith Mfg. Inc., a leading manufacturer of automated woodchip heating plants for schools and commercial/industrial use. I have also been involved in consulting and management for profit and nonprofit organizations for 45 years.

Community Service/WEC: I have served on the WEC Board of Directors since 1997 and been the president of the Board since November 1998. I also serve on the board of ILR Inc., a Northampton, Massachusetts, disability-rights organization specializing in ADA technical assistance and training.

I served on the Board and Finance Committee of Woodbury College in Montpelier; as a Board member and treasurer of both the Hunger Mountain

Co-op, Montpelier, and the Buffalo Mountain Co-op, in Hardwick. I was a co-founder of the Vermont Center For Independent Living, Montpelier, and served as its executive director (1978-1982, 1992-1993). I was a co-incorporator and officer of the former CVTA, a nonprofit providing transportation services to central Vermont elders, people with disabilities and others, from 1980 to 1985.

WEC members should feel free to call me at 456-8843 or e-mail me at bbearvt@aol.com with any questions.

Steven Clay

Residence: I live in Middlesex on Shady Rill Road near Rumney School. Our Co-op membership is listed in the town of Middlesex, and we have been Co-op members for three years. Before making the move to Shady Rill, we lived in East Montpelier where we were also Co-op members. Members may contact me at my home at 229-1452.



Education/Profession: I graduated from the University of Wisconsin/La Crosse, with a degree in Health Education. After teaching for three years, I completed a Masters program in Applied Mathematics at Rennselear Polytechnic Institute. Since that time I have been working in the insurance industry as an actuary. I currently work for Blue Cross

and Blue Shield of Vermont.

Community Service/WEC: My community service thus far has centered around involvement in our family's church. I am running for the WEC board for the first time, because I would like to help the Co-op develop policy that will maintain the level of service we have experienced in Shady Rill.

Roy Folsom

Residence: I am the proprietor of Crooked Brooks Farm on U.S. Route 2 in Cabot, where I have lived since 1985.



Education/Profession: I graduated from high school in 1970, in Solon, Ohio. I attended Kent State University for one year, and then formed a construction company with my brother. In 1973 I moved to Vermont. I am now a dairy farmer – although my philosophy has always been that I'm a businessman first, a farmer second. Our farm is run as any business, with an aim for being profitable. This May we will be adding a young farmer as a partner in our dairy operation. This person will own the milking herd and manage it; I will be managing the field work and we will work together doing the daily chores. With this approaching situation, a year ago I spent a few winter months studying Vermont property and casualty insurance law and am now licensed and selling farm insurance for Nationwide

Agribusiness Insurance Company. Using my 35 years of farming experience, I sell only farm insurance. So far, this has been a good sideline to my farm operation.

Community Service/WEC: I served on the Town of Cabot Planning Commission, 1991-1996, and as its chairman in 1995 and 1996. From 1992 to the present, I have been a member of the Cabot Zoning Board of Adjustment, and became chairman of that board in 2000. I am a member of the Caledonia County Farm Bureau and delegate to the Vermont Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, representing Caledonia County. I was appointed to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board by Governor Douglas in 2005. I was elected to the Washington Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in 2004, and re-elected in 2007. I have served on the Members & Markets Committee and presently I am on the Policy Committee and the Power & Operations Committee. In July I was made chairman of the Power & Operations Committee.

Annie Reed

Residence: I have lived in Marshfield, Vermont, for 34 years. I have been a member of the Washington Electric Co-op since 2000.



Members may contact me at 454-1324, or annereed48@gmail.com.

Education/Profession: I graduated from Beloit College in 1970 with a B.A. in Anthropology, and in 1997 I received a Master of Science degree in Environmental Studies with a concentration in conservation biology from Antioch University New England. Since 1996 I have been a freelance ecologist. For the past 12 years I have been teaching hands-on courses in college science. Currently, Community College of Vermont/Montpelier has hired me to teach in their new Environmental Science degree program. My courses include Introduction to Environmental Science, Wildlife Ecology, and The Natural History of Vermont.

Community Service/WEC: For many years I have been committed to being active in community matters. My civic involvement has included being a member of the Marshfield Conservation Commission, presi-

dent of the Friends of the Jaquith Public Library, and chair of the Advisory Group to the Vermont State Endangered Species Committee on Vascular Plants. For three years I served on the Goddard College Board of Trustees. For eight years I have volunteered as an emergency medical technician with the Plainfield Fire and Rescue Squad. I am a member of two food co-ops and the NorthCountry Federal Credit Union.

I came out of the blue and ran for the WEC Board of Directors last year, against four incumbents. My thanks go out to each of you who supported me in my candidacy. My interest is still keen. I respect WEC's model of shared ownership. I am proud of the Co-op's reputation as a democratically run organization that is responsible to its members and respectful and supportive of its working staff. I know that

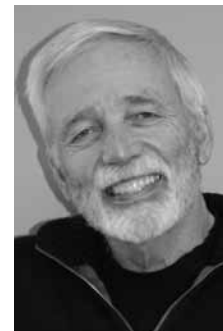
the board is facing some challenges. The recently announced intention to raise rates for the first time in many years, and the pressure to change to "smart metering," will test us all. I am confident that we can remain a strong, responsive, and resilient co-operative! It would be an honor to serve on the Co-op's Board of Directors.


Scott Skinner

Residence: I live on Leland Farm Road in Middlesex and have been a WEC member since 1977. I can be reached at 223-7123 and by email at scottskinner@gmail.com.

Education/Profession: I am a lawyer in the firm of Biggam, Fox & Skinner in Montpelier. I graduated from Dartmouth College in 1964. I was a Peace Corps volunteer for two years, working as a high school teacher in

Nepal. I graduated from Columbia Law School in 1969, and after working for several years in New York I came to Vermont in 1972 as the first executive director of the Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG).



Community Service/WEC: I have served as a Justice of the Peace in Middlesex for the past 10 years. I have also been a member of the Board of Adjustment. I was formerly active in coaching youth sports and ran the Cub Scout program in Middlesex. I was the president of the Vermont Bar Foundation for four years, and am a member of the Board of the Vermont Historical Society. 

Rural Electric Co-ops in the Empire State

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east of Oneida-Madison, Steve Rinell, general manager and CEO at Otsego Electric Cooperative, gets very excited about using technology to reduce energy usage.

Otsego (named for its county of origin, though it now serve members in Madison, Chenango, and Herkimer counties, too) is a small, 3,800-member co-op, and very rural. In Vermont, Washington Electric is classified as the state's "most rural" utility because of its low average density of just less than eight meters per mile of line. Otsego's density is under six. It's an important number because a low density means fewer paying consumers supporting the electric system. Surprisingly, though, Otsego EC has installed "smart metering" throughout its territory – an advanced technology that provides system-wide digital information to the co-op.

"The reliability of our system has improved a great deal," says Rinell. "Our meter may sense a blink" – a momentary loss or decrease of power – "that you'll never see, but the meter saw it. We can collect that information and analyze a whole section of the system to see if there's a tree issue, an equipment issue, or a connection problem, so we can be proactive and efficient, rather than reactive, in correcting it.

"It helps not only in outage management, but in outage identification. The voltage regulators and other equipment on our lines now have the capability of intelligence, so we can interrogate them; we can back the devices down the line – 'it wasn't this one, it wasn't this one' – until we narrow down where the problem is."

Here's where Rinell gets really excited.

"I'm waiting for the day that when the power goes off our system will place an automated call to you before you even have a chance to call us, saying 'We'll restore your power as quickly as possible.' The meter already knows

it's off; if you have a capacitor that can connect to the billing system, all you'd need is the software to initiate that phone call."

Smart metering has enabled Otsego to launch a Time of Use Rate pilot program, to get members to take better advantage of the co-op's clean and low-cost hydropower allocation. "The rates are higher in peak times and lower in off-peak times," Rinell explains. "Understanding this gives the person the ability to stop and think, 'Do I want to run my dryer at this time of day, when if I waited two hours my rate would be 25-percent less?'"

Simultaneously, the co-op wants to encourage members to consider electric thermal-storage units, a central-heating mechanism timed to operate during off-peak hours. It stores the heat in the units' brick lining, and extracts it during peak hours. One of the first Otsego members to purchase and install a thermal unit was Rinell himself.

"A major benefit of this system will be to fully utilize our inexpensive hydro allocation," he says, "because sometimes we might be using only half of that power. When heating oil prices spiked I didn't have to worry; I'm at the mercy of my local cooperative, versus the hedge funds, investors, and greedy oil cartel. But you have to have an off-peak, storage system for it to make sense."

Otsego's leadership keeps an eye out for more ways to use technology to save money and efficiently provide clean, affordable energy.

"People talk about renewables, conservation, and energy efficiency," says Rinell. "It all starts at the co-op. If we're not doing all we can to reduce power usage, how can we preach to others?"

Co-op with a hole in it

Out west, near Lake Erie and south toward the Pennsylvania line, Steuben REC remains a pretty traditional co-op – except for the fact that it's two co-ops in one: the two-county Cherry Creek district, which manager Bob Perry describes as "hilly with some lakes, and mostly residential," and the Bath district farther east in Steuben County, where the wood products industry is strong. Between them lies Alleghany County,

not a part of the co-op's system.

"In the Cherry Creek district there's all that lake-effect snow from Lake Erie," says Perry, an immigrant from Central Indiana Power who just took over the reins at Steuben REC a year ago. "In the Bath district there's lots of lumbering; our largest account is a wood pellet factory."

The co-op was formed by a merger 40 years ago. That created New York's largest electric co-op, and if it meant that

board members from Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties must travel 100 miles to attend meetings, nobody's complaining – particularly since it gave Steuben REC the heft to break ground on a landfill gas electric-generating station on Earth Day last April. The 3.2-megawatt (MW) facility at the Steuben County Landfill is owned by co-op subsidiary SREC Generating Co., Inc. Though the power will flow into the state's electric grid rather than into the co-op's distribution system, the plant's output will equal a high percentage of Steuben REC's electric demand. Even more advantageous is that Steuben will qualify for renewable energy credits, which it can sell to companies that need such credits to meet their states' renewable-energy requirements.

Steuben isn't stopping there.

"The big deal for us is educating our members on energy issues and

how some of the programs under consideration in Washington could affect their bills," says Perry. "But we also have a large wind farm on the drawing board, among other ideas."

Steuben knows that the best way for co-ops to insulate their members from price volatility is to control what they can control – including clean, local energy production.

David and Goliath

Of all the intriguing power projects on the table or on the ground for co-ops in the Empire State, one bears special mention: Delaware County Electric Cooperative's Western Catskills Hydro Project.


"It could be a game changer for us," says Starheim, the CEO.

The reservoirs, which provide water through vast aqueducts to New York City and beyond, also have spillage over their dams. "That is what we have proposed to FERC to capture," he says, referring to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which licenses hydroelectric projects.

The co-op proposes to develop four "run-of-river" hydroelectric stations – which ensures minimal environmental impact – at existing dams on Schoharie Creek, the east and west branches of the Delaware River, and the Neversink River. It anticipates generating 63 MW of power, which could change the dynamics of the state's electric system and, obviously, be advantageous for the co-op. Starheim has attracted potential funding from the federal Rural Utilities Service and the Cooperative Finance Corporation.

There's just one small problem: New York City. The Gotham Goliath filed a competing application with FERC and won the permit. But Starheim is not fazed. "They were like the dog chasing the truck, that catches it and doesn't know what to do with it," he says. Starheim believes the city was seeking leverage, and would be happy to see the upstate co-op do the project as long as its interests are protected.

"I believe this will happen," he says. "But it's a painstaking process."

Game changers don't come easily. 



Wayne Sherwood, manager of Oneida-Madison Electric Cooperative.



Hot Water 4 Less

A Co-op Member's Adventures with Pre-Heating

By Steve Miller

Editor's note: Steve Miller is a Co-op member who lives in Calais with his wife, Cynthia, and their 14-year-old daughter, Rosa. A sign painter by trade, Steve is a tinkerer and inventor, as evidenced by the home he designed and built for his family -- a 30-foot-diameter dome combined with a 28-foot sphere. More recently, Steve set his ingenuity to work on a system to reduce the amount of propane they use for hot water. He is also mindful that his propane travels hundreds of miles to get to him, while sunlight is a source of local energy – in Calais and everywhere in the world.

In the fall of 2008 I received a propane bill showing that the price had risen to about \$4.75/gallon. Typically I was using about 64 gallons per delivery, so that really got my attention.

I had been working on a homemade system for preheating our domestic hot water, using the heat from the stovepipe on our Hearthstone wood stove, so that it would already be warm by the time it got to the propane heater and we could use less fuel. A used water-heater tank was sitting in the loft above the wood stove; I had made a heat exchanger (a device that moves heat from one place to another) by coiling a long section of soft copper tubing, and I had fashioned curved pipes that would connect the loft tank and the heat exchanger. What remained to be done was to run pipes here and there to connect our well water to the loft tank, and also to connect the tank to the propane water heater in the next room. The coil was

wrapped around a 24-inch section of eight-inch-diameter stovepipe; the curved pipes were for circulating water from the bottom of the loft tank, through the heating coil, and back into the top of the loft tank, which doubles as a storage tank.

For years I had been getting information from Rick Kehne, a Calais resident and an engineer experienced with thermosyphons. He loaned me a book and coached me on the specifics of the design. My neighbor Frank Sterling, an industrial plumber at Cabot Creamery, also had experience with thermosyphons, and gave me valuable advice. A thermosyphon is a system that heats water, and the heated water, made lighter by the rise in temperature, rises to the storage tank, drawing cooler water from the bottom of the tank to the heating coil in a continuous, pressurized cycle. My system was designed to supply heated water to the propane water heater. Instead of cold water from the well flowing into the water heater when we're using hot water, water warmed by the stovepipe runs in.

Making the coil was the most challenging part of this enterprise. Heavy, soft, three-quarter-inch copper



Author Steve Miller's Hearthstone wood stove, with a heat exchanger coiled around the vertical stove pipe.

coil is expensive; 60 feet cost me \$340. I held off making the coil for two weeks, just to be sure I would be in the right state of mind to bend this heavy coil into an even spiral.

When the time came, I selected a fencepost just a little smaller than the stovepipe, stuck it upright in the ground, and slid a stovepipe section over it. I slipped the coil around it and turned it like a steering wheel, careful to avoid kinking the pipe. The spiral

came out better than I expected; 44 feet of three-quarter-inch pipe was wrapped around the 24-inch section of stovepipe. It fits snugly against the stovepipe and transfers the heat effectively. Finally, I soldered some fittings on it to accept the circulator pipes and provide a drain at the bottom.

The system went together without difficulty, except that I had never soldered before. Steve Martel of Calais showed me how, but there were several mistakes I had to make for myself. Once this system was assembled it worked right away, and we burned a lot of wood that November finding out what the new thermosyphon could do. Water comes in from the well at about 48 degrees, and the thermosyphon usually raises it to 110. Our propane water heater does not indicate degrees, so I don't know exactly how much more it needs to raise the temperature – perhaps to

125 or 130 degrees. We lose some temperature in the lines running to and from the tanks, even though they are insulated and in a heated space, and a small amount of cooling takes place while the water is sitting in the tanks.

Our propane water heater was 11 years old, and had been giving us trouble. The year before I had cleaned it out with vinegar, but when it started acting up again after running the thermosyphon I decided to replace it. However, this was my opportunity to go to the second phase of Hot Water 4 Less: the "solar batch heater."

Home-made solar hw

The book on thermosyphons had a chapter on solar hot water. Common flat-plate collectors are sensitive to freezing and are usually filled with antifreeze, which creates the need for another heat exchanger to transfer the heat from the antifreeze circuit to the domestic water.

I wished to avoid this for simplicity's sake. The passive-solar batch heater I installed behind the house will resist freezing until late fall, when I stop using it. (I'm excited, because the sun starts getting warm again in this climate in March, which has now arrived.) My batch heater – so called because it heats a batch of water – is a stripped-down 40-gallon water tank painted flat black and placed outdoors in an insulated box with a glass top. The water line to the regular water heater runs to the batch heater first – again, as a preheating unit.

Bill Powell at Washington Electric Co-op convinced me I needed to replace my water heater. The Bradford White propane water heater we installed when we built the house in 1996 had gotten crusty from sediment; this is the one I replaced with a new propane water heater, and it's now serving as the solar batch heater tank. I had been considering a "demand"



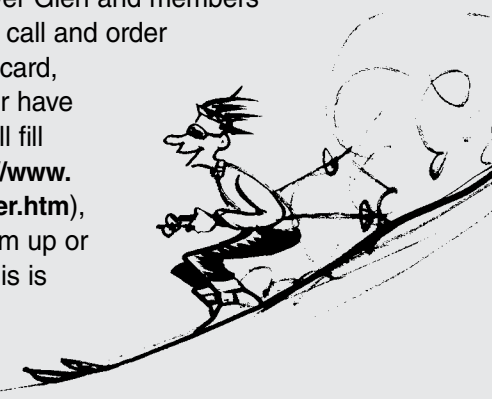
Low-tech solar water heating at work. An old stripped-down water tank inside this glass-covered box captures the sun's energy and pre-heats the family's domestic hot water.

Now, Call WEC for Mad River Glen Tickets

The geese have flown south, the temperatures have plunged, and ski season is here! This year the Co-op has an improved deal for WEC members who ski at Mad River Glen – which is also a cooperative. You can now purchase day passes at the Co-op office. The ticket price varies depending on the day; weekday adult tickets are \$35.

WEC is a ticket retailer for Mad River Glen and members are eligible for special prices. You can call and order tickets by phone, paying with a credit card, then either pick your tickets up here or have us put them in the mail. The Co-op will fill orders placed from the website (<http://www.washingtonco-op.com/pages/madriver.htm>), but members must still either pick them up or have them mailed to your address. This is not an electronic ticket offer.

See you on the mountain!



water heater, but Bill convinced me to get a tank-type heater for the propane system, for the sake of more storage. As he said, when you use alternative energy, storage is everything.

Bill also let me borrow a thermocouple device to measure heat at various places on the thermosyphon. I found that the surface of the stovepipe was 80-120 degrees cooler right above the coil than it was below (closer to the stove). The water in the coil is raised 12-17 degrees per-cycle around the pipe, depending on the intensity of the fire in the stove. When it gets to the holding tank it's rarely hotter than 125 degrees, so there's still work for the propane heater to do. Consequently, we've adjusted our hot water use, giving the system more recovery time between baths to take better advantage of the preheating function.

The results are pretty good. Year-round, we have reduced our propane use by two thirds. In the summer the thermosyphon turns into an air conditioner, cooling the room by drawing heat from the air. This also warms the water before it goes to the

batch heater outside.

The whole system cost several hundred dollars, mostly for the copper coil and plumbing connections. I haven't factored in my labor. The batch heater is equipped with shutoffs and is drained in October when it becomes ineffective. I used PEX piping (also called crosslinked polyethylene) where I could; it is freeze-resistant and easy to use. This is a modest system, which will not handle heavy use well (it's not much good for someone who showers for an hour at a time). But it works well for our household of three, and requires little attention.


It is possible to make a more powerful thermosyphon by running a small section of pipe through the firebox, through the heat chamber, or inside the stovepipe rather than around it. I wanted to keep it where I could monitor it and have peace of mind when I drove away for the day. A burst pipe can do a lot of damage in a few hours. The coil looks good in our kitchen; the stove is in the center of a 30-foot dome, and its surface is usually cluttered with a pot of water,

a teakettle, a thermoelectric fan, and even dinner heating up. We get a lot of use out of our wood stove.

There are better designs than mine for the batch heater, too, but they take up more room. I will be tinkering with the batch heater for a long time. I think batch heaters – built, like mine, from old water heater tanks stripped of the sheet metal and insulation – could, in sufficient numbers, significantly change the amount of fuel burned in this country, particularly in the South. I am amazed that 10 square feet of sunlight can substantially reduce my propane bill in Vermont. I installed the thermosyphon in the fall of 2008 and the batch heater in April 2009, and they have saved me more money than they cost. I had to do some work, and burned my fingers learning to solder, and got a hernia getting the 90-pound tank out of the box to solder the fittings on it. But it is worth a chunk of money every month of the year except maybe October (so little sun, and not cold enough to do any serious wood burning). A tank made specifically for a batch heater would work better

– something that would catch more sunlight.

For several years I lettered trucks for Steve's Gas Supply in Essex Junction, a small company that transported propane from Erie, Pennsylvania, to Burlington, Vermont. I don't know where the propane came from before Erie, but just from Erie to Burlington is more than 500 miles – and then it's carried farther for delivery to individual households, where much of it is used simply to heat water. Now we read about problems at Vermont Yankee, which uses nuclear energy to heat water to drive steam turbines and produce electricity. This power is transferred through high-tension lines all over the state (except in the WEC region), and a lot of it just heats water as its final use.

We have heat delivered right into our backyards by the sun, and it is more intense and usable than I ever would have guessed before I undertook this simple project. I have another 40-gallon tank, and I'm already making plans to collect more solar energy with it. 

Community Fund

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bears repeating here:

"The annual amount available for donations has been slipping somewhat over time,"

Patt wrote in his January 12, 2010, report. "We have not done any intensive promotion of the Community Fund [to the WEC membership] as we did in the first few years, when we had a very good response from direct-mail promotions. I will be asking the

Community Fund Committee whether or not they would support spending a small amount every few years on promotion, in order to keep the annual available funds from slipping."

However, direct-mail promotion is costly. The message for all of us is that this is an important, compassionate, community-focused activity of our Co-op, and we can easily support it by signing up to have WEC divert our capital credits to the fund.

No need to wait; signing up can be done any time of the year.

Causes that receive Community Fund donations are ones most people would endorse. The fund does not contribute to religious or political groups. Organizations must be financially viable so that the money contributed

by WEC members is not wasted, and applicants must be able to demonstrate broad support in their communities. A list of all 37 organizations that received contributions from WEC in 2009 appears on page 8.

Those contributions, in nearly all cases, ranged from \$250 to \$1,000.

The Community Fund began 2009 with \$21,266. Because it spent just under \$19,690, the remaining \$1,576 carries forward to 2010. In the fall of 2009 (when capital credit refunds were distributed), the voluntary contributions

to the fund for the coming year totaled \$17,729; added to the carryover from 2009, the Community Fund therefore began 2010 with \$19,305 available for donations.

Here are some examples of your WEC Community Fund at work.

CVCAC

Central Vermont Community Action Council finds its way into *Co-op Currents'* pages on a pretty regular basis. That's because our local CAP

Having a baby needn't spell the end of education and high hopes for a teen parent. Pictured above is a graduate of CVCAC's Family Literacy Program at the Brook School in Barre. CVCAC also runs a similar program in Morrisville.



Photo courtesy of CVCAC

Photo courtesy of CVCAC



Afghani Ayoubi, owner of Pakistani Foods, uses the community kitchen at LACE in Barre to prepare her ethnic food. Ayoubi got started with help from CVCAC's Micro Business Development Program. CVCAC partners with LACE to manage the kitchen.

agency (CAP stands for community action program) does so much good work that overlaps with Washington Electric Co-op's goals of helping people conserve energy and reduce their heating and electric bills. In the past year we have featured articles on Button Up, a CVCAC program that conducts home-weatherization workshops all over the state to help people learn how to make basic improvements on their own. We have also noted CVCAC's weatherization services in the context of federal "stimulus" funds that provide incentives for homeowners to invest in energy efficiency.

That important work represents a small fraction of CVCAC's services to our central Vermont communities and residents. (The agency's services are concentrated in Washington, Orange, and Lamoille counties, which covers nearly all of WEC's territory; CVCAC also touches small parts of Addison,

Rutland, and Windsor counties, and operates several statewide programs.)

Most people know that "Community Action," as CVCAC is known, runs bedrock low-income-assistance programs like Head Start, fuel assistance, emergency housing services, food shelves (in Berlin, Morrisville, and Bradford), and provides guidance for accessing federal programs like food stamps (now known as 3Squares VT). Executive Director Hal Cohen explains the agency's overall mission.

"It is, simply, to alleviate the suffering and effects of poverty," says Cohen; "to assist individuals and families to move out of poverty, and to advocate for long-term changes to achieve economic justice."

Washington Electric Co-op has contributed to CVCAC since the Community Fund was established in 2003, and Cohen says those contri-

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Community Fund

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butions help fill gaps in services that might be caused by funding shortfalls or by restrictions in some government-supported anti-poverty programs that leave out people badly in need of help.

“Programs funded by Community Development Block Grants can assist people up to 200 percent of the poverty level, but we have people coming in at 250 percent who are in serious need,” says Cohen. “We use discretionary funds like the Co-op’s to meet those needs. The same goes for fuel assistance, which only goes up to 150 percent of poverty.”

Another use of discretionary funds is for programs that don’t have core funding from state and federal sources, programs that Cohen says are sometimes the most fruitful and effective anti-poverty efforts taking place. An example is Tangible Assets, which provides two-to-one matches for deposits that participants make into their “Individual Development Accounts.” People can use these IDAs for post-secondary education, for starting a business, or buying a home.

There’s also an educational component to the Tangible Assets program: workshops that coach people in developing good financial habits.

“The matched-savings part of the program attracts people and helps them attain a valuable asset such as a house,” says Cohen. “But people say the financial-literacy workshops are the best part. We’ve found this

program to be one of the most successful at moving people out of poverty.”

A micro-business-development program run statewide by CVCAC is cut from the same cloth. It gives people tools for escaping poverty and more fully realizing themselves as contributing citizens, with dignity and value to their communities.

Lastly, Cohen passed on a bit of news to *Co-op Currents*.

“We have an option to buy a two-acre lot in Barre, which we plan to develop as a campus to have all of our Washington County services in one place. More than 50 percent of the clients we serve are in Barre, so we would be more accessible for them. And this will be great for Barre City, as it will bring a staff of 100 people to town every workday, to stimulate local businesses. We’ve got a \$30,000 planning grant, and we expect to start a capital campaign soon.”

CVCAC programs teach ambitious, but low-income, clients that a little bit of money, wisely used, can go a long way to change things for the better. The same thing can be said of Washington Electric’s Community Fund.

Growing Local Festival

People come to an awareness of the importance of local foods from different perspectives:

- **the world’s dwindling oil reserves** – petroleum goes into fertilizers as well as long-distance transport of food products;
- **nutrition** – locally produced foods tend to be fresher and healthier, especially in Vermont where production is often organic;
- **the importance of supporting local agricultural economies.**

When Buzz Ferver and Tom Sabo, both of Worcester, sought a contribution last summer from the WEC Community Fund for a “Growing Local Festival” to be held on the green at the Vermont College campus in Montpelier, they found a receptive ear in Manager Avram Patt.

“Avram recognized right away that it was something good for the community,” says Ferver, a member of the board of directors of the Central Vermont Food Systems Council. Ferver sits on the council’s education subcommittee. Following procedure, Patt recommended the festival to the Community Fund Committee of WEC’s board, which then authorized the award.

“Washington Electric was the first, and one of the largest, sponsors,” says Ferver. “Once we had the Co-op’s backing it was easier to get other contributors. The festival was funded 100 percent by donations from community members and businesses in central Vermont. The biggest supporters were Washington Electric and the Vermont Compost Company.”

The Growing Local Festival took place on Saturday, September 12. Music by the Chad Hollister Band, volunteers from the New England Culinary Institute, vendors representing local food businesses and offering examples of deliciously prepared local foods, and a beer



Patrons line up at one of the many tables and tents providing local food and drink at the Growing Local Festival in Montpelier. Proceeds from the September festival are supporting school-garden programs in Washington County.

tent run by the Threepenny Taproom serving Vermont brews, created a festive atmosphere. There were workshops on seed saving, backyard chickening, root cellaring, and nearly a dozen other subjects related to growing, preserving, preparing, and enjoying local foods.

But the Growing Local Festival was not an end in itself. People attending the festival made voluntary contributions – some \$2,500, according to Kristin Feierabend, a VISTA/AmeriCorps volunteer assigned to Montpelier’s City Planning Department – that will fund grants to eight Washington County schools for gardening projects. After the festival the Food Systems Council’s education subcommittee sent requests for proposals (RFPs) to all the schools in the county inviting them to apply for the grants. Eight schools responded – a mix of elementary, middle, and high schools – and the funds were sufficient to provide small grants for all of them.

“They’ll be going to school garden projects,” says Feierabend. “Some

are for new gardens and some are for refurbishing school gardens that have fallen into disuse and disrepair. The projects will be integrated into the school curriculum, so the gardens will become outdoor classrooms. We’re very committed to providing education to the public regarding local food, and creating a stronger and more sustainable local food system.”

You can find out more by going to the website for the Central Vermont Food Systems Council.

The Growing Local Festival demonstrated the ripple effect of community-centered contributions: A group of people were willing to work hard to make something good happen; businesses and charitable funds like WEC’s Community Fund provided fuel in the form of cash and voluntary assistance; and a result is something even larger and more significant – local students developing green thumbs, a palate for local food products, and an appreciation of agriculture.

It’s not exactly magic. But it’s not exactly *not* magic either.

2009 WEC Community Fund Contributions

Contribution Recipients

Barre Heritage Festival
 VT Youth Conservation Corp
 VT Council on Rural Development
 Chelsea Public Library
 Community Capital of Vermont
 CV Home Health & Hospice
 The Governor’s Institutes VT
 Studio Place Arts
 Friends of the Winooski River
 Washington Cnty Court Diversion & Alcohol Safety Prog.
 Washington Cnty 4-H Foundation
 Circus Smirkus
 VT Center for Independent Living
 Jaquith Public Library
 Home Share of Central VT
 First Night Montpelier
 Prevent Child Abuse
 Central VT Council on Aging
 Earth Walk Vermont
 Plainfield Historical Society
 VT Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition
 Cabot Coalition
 Food Works - Fest
 Upper Valley Services
 VT Peace Academy school conflict-resolution program
 Jeudevine Memorial Library
 People’s Health & Wellness Clinic
 Kellogg-Hubbard Library
 VT State Science & Mathematics Fair
 BYSA Hockey Program
 Good Beginnings of Central VT
 Johnson State College (Washington Cty. History video)
 CV Community Action Council
 Central Vt Community Land Trust
 Green Mountain Film Festival
 Hardwick Area Food Pantry
 Stuff-a-Truck food shelf drive
 North Branch Nature Center



Cat Spalding, of Northwoods Embroidery, shows her custom-embroidered tote bags at the LACE Gallery in Barre. Spalding is a Vermont Women’s Business Center client. CVCAC supports the business-development enterprise and manages the gallery in partnership with LACE.